NORMAN DOOR FROM NORTON CHURCH

NORTON CHURCH, situated about four miles from Worcester, consists of a chancel, nave, south porch, and tower. It boasts of two original Norman doors; the one represented by the engraving is on the north side, and the other, which is much larger, but plainer, is on the south side of the nave. There are a few encaustic tiles in the chancel, and only two of the Norman windows remaining, the lights of which are but 2 feet 4 inches by 5½ inches.

The subject of the engraving is in a very dilapidated state, and in a few years will probably disappear. GEORGE TAUNTON.

5, Burwood-place.

*** The iron bands and hinges here shewn, appear to belong exclusively to the Norman period.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

WE have before us at this moment more than a dozen letters, received within the last month, inquiring if the writers may depend on the golden promises held out by certain building societies. A few of the inquirers state, that they seek simply the means of investing safely, small sums at regular intervals.

To the latter we have nothing to say, further than advising them to satisfy themselves as to the character of the office-bearers of the association they propose to join.

The desire of the majority of our correspondents, however, is to become immediately "their own landlords,"—to cease paying rent, and by paying the same amount, or very little more, to the society, for a short stipulated period, as pointed out in some of the prospectuses, to find the property their own. Those who possess the former volumes of THE BUILDER may consult pages 25, 86, 589, 601, 625, and 637 in Volume II., and 14, 44, and 142 in Volume III., and then exercise their own judgment. To those who have not, we will say, in the words of a recent pamphlet on the subject: "It is impossible that the lenders in these societies should receive the exorbitant interest promised to them, except by *exacting an oppressive rate of interest from the borrowers*."*

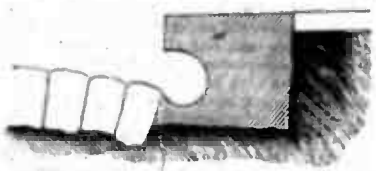
We saw the bill of a Provident Building Society posted somewhere near Bishopsgate-street the other day, headed, "no fines on withdrawal; no fines on transfer; no redemption fees," &c., and ending, "all persons who are desirous of acquiring freehold or leasehold property with *little or no outlay of their own*, are requested to attend!"

In such a case as this we should say, as we would in any suspicious crowd, to honest men for whom we might feel interested, "take care of your pockets."

FORM OF CURB-STONES.

THE position of the channel to carry off the rain-water from the roads in London, *outside* the curb-stone, is sometimes productive of inconvenience, as it necessarily preserves a stock of dirty water, to be splashed over the foot passengers by every carriage or horse that passes near.

Deprecating this nuisance, a correspondent has obligingly forwarded us the accompanying



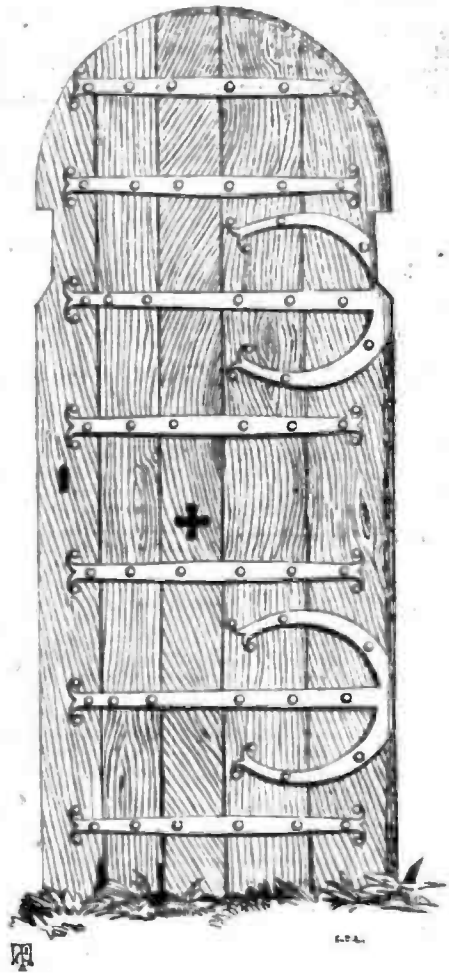
section of a curb-stone, adopted in Paris, for carrying off the surface water in narrow streets, and from the court-yards of houses.

The sketch will explain itself: the curb-stone is hollowed out to the extent of about five inches in diameter, and the water is thus led away on either side of the road, out of sight, and out of the reach of wheel or hoof.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH AT COLOMBO.—Ceylon papers lately arrived, bring the intelligence that subscriptions to a considerable amount have been collected for this object.

* "Fallacies of Building Societies." By Plain Figures. Simpkin and Marshall.

NORMAN DOOR FROM NORTON CHURCH.



NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

HER Majesty the Queen Dowager has given 25*l.* towards building Hendon Church, Somersetshire.——The *Tralee Chronicle* says that the Earl of Kenmare has given 300*l.* to Mr. Townsend, of the Christian brotherhood in Killarney, towards the erection of the monastery in the vicinity of the new cathedral, on the express condition that the work should commence at once, so as to afford immediate employment to the people.——The restoration of the ancient monuments in St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, is completed. The most ancient of them is the cross-legged effigy of a knight in armour, over which is a loose surcoat, or linen frock, bearing a shield on his left arm, charged with a "bend lozenge." This is believed to represent Sir William de Birmingham, who died in the latter part of the reign of Edward the First, as he bore for his arms the bend lozenge. The effigy is placed on a new altar-tomb, from a design by Mr. M. H. Bloxam.——The opening of the Cirencester Agricultural College has been deferred until after Lady-day. It is in the contemplation of the council to complete the wing of the building so as to accommodate 200 students, as originally proposed.——Last Monday week being the festival of St. Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, in the time of the Saxons, the corner-stone of the new Roman Catholic church, about to be built in York-street, Cheetham, was blessed, and placed by the bishop of the district, with all the solemn rites enjoined by the Roman pontifical.——The authorities of Birmingham contemplate the erection of certain new municipal buildings for the more convenient transaction of business, and the proper administration of justice in the borough. At a meeting of the Street Act Commissioners, held last week, Mr. E. Healey said that he hoped to see the time when the present town-hall would be in the centre of a square, which would do honour to the town.——Mr. Littledale has recently given 756 square yards of land to the Wallasey commissioners, as a site for the erection of public offices for transacting the business of the commission. The land is near the national school.——The Lowestoft Harbour Company are about to inclose 16 acres in a treble row of piles, to extend about 1,700 feet from the bridge towards the sea, and to project into the ocean about 1,200 feet from the present water mark. Between this piling, which will be strongly braced, will be laid Whitby stone, the weight of no piece used to be less than three tons. The whole is to be an oblong square, and on the top is to be a promenade and platform 25 feet wide, which will form jetties into the sea, and the entrance for vessels will be at the south-eastern corner, a space being left for this purpose about 200 feet wide. Within this piling the sea is not to be met by a perpendicular wall, but by a slanting bank somewhat in the form of a sea bank, called the clay puddle. By these means it is expected that the bar will be entirely got rid of.——The Liverpool Town Council and Dock Committee have decided upon completing immediately the Albert Dock warehouses, and to enable them so to do, they will introduce a Bill during the present session of Parliament.——The design of the yacht club house at Ryde is by Mr. William Huntley,

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